

Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Hornbecker to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Hornbecker and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the anniversary of September 11, 2001. It was a day that our enemies had hoped to show America's weakness, but instead showed our enormous strength and our enduring commitment to the values on which this Nation was founded.

The tragedies that unfolded in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania on September 11 took the lives of nearly 3000 individuals, Americans and others. These men, women, and children were killed because they lived in a country where toleration, freedom, and compassion are guiding principles. Many of those lost were brave first-responders who entered burning buildings, selflessly placing the interest of strangers above their own. All those who were killed that day left voids in the hearts of their families and communities. But their memory and spirit continue to endure in us all, and reinforce our commitment to the freedoms and ideas for which they died.

Moreover, everyday since September 11, tens of thousands of Americans work tirelessly in our communities to prevent terrorist attacks from happening again. Our hospitals, fire departments, and law enforcement officials all have redefined their mission to protect, prepare, and respond as part of the War on Terror. Meanwhile, overseas the brave members of the American military and intelligence community continue to pursue and destroy terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

Mr. Speaker, September 11 was a defining day in the history of the United States. Although we lost many great Americans, our Nation united in a cause to honor their memory and win the long-term struggle against terrorism. And in this struggle, we will win while protecting the freedom and way of life for which our enemies fight us. We continue to honor the memory of those lost and we strive to do them justice.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORTS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, it is fitting that we are pausing to honor the memory of those who died on that terrible day and to reaffirm our commitment to bring to justice those who

perpetrated these heinous acts. Today is also a time for us to remember that we can best honor those who perished by learning the right lessons from 9/11, including the heroes of United Flight 93 like Todd Beamer, whose actions that day prevented further loss of life in Washington, DC.

Over the last 6 years, we have made it harder for the reconstituted al Qaeda to mount a similar operation against the United States. And last month, the Congress passed and the President signed into law a bill (H.R. 1) that will implement the balance of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. These are tangible achievements, but we must guard against the kind of complacency and false sense of security that prevailed before the attacks on our Nation.

Because al Qaeda's leadership—Osama bin Laden and Ayman Al Zawahiri—remains at large, America is still vulnerable to future al Qaeda attacks. Moreover, our involvement in Iraq has caused us to waste lives, resources, and time that should have been spent in finding and neutralizing bin Laden and Zawahiri, and dismantling the rest of their network. We know that our involvement in Iraq has made it harder for us to rally the world in the common struggle against al Qaeda and its murderous ideology. The sooner we disengage militarily from Iraq, the sooner we will be able to refocus ourselves and our allies on the larger and far more important struggle against bin Laden and those like him.

We must also do what is necessary to care for the first responders of 9/11—those who have developed debilitating illnesses as a result of their exposure to the multiple toxins unleashed in the aftermath of the attacks. I'm hopeful that a bill to provide for the long-term monitoring of affected first responders (H. Res. 128), offered by my colleague Representative CAROLYN MALONEY of New York, will be brought to the floor of the House for a vote very soon.

Finally, we must ensure that America does whatever is necessary to take care of the men and women of our armed forces who are engaged in the hunt for our terrorist enemies. Traumatic brain injury, life-changing physical wounds, and post-traumatic stress disorder are all conditions that are affecting veterans in record numbers. I'm gratified that this Congress has provided major funding increases to deal with the needs of the veterans, but we must do more than provide one-year increases in funding—we need to structurally increase the VA health care budget to cover these injuries and their treatment throughout the expected lifetimes of these veterans. To do less dishonors them and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, as we mark this solemn day, let us remember that so long as we remain united as a people, we will weather this struggle successfully—just as we weathered the fights against fascism and communism in the last century.

HONORING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA FEDERATION OF LABOR AFL-CIO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, It is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most

devoted and proficient workers in northwest Indiana. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor AFL-CIO will recognize several individuals for their dedication during the 33rd Annual Community Awards reception to be held at the Duneland Falls Banquet Center in Chesterton, Indiana, on Friday, September 21, 2007. These individuals, in addition to the other Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals will receive special recognition. The Honorable Duane Cheney, our distinguished State representative who recently retired, is this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Cheney is being honored for his many years of service and his many contributions to the well-being of workers throughout northwest Indiana.

Mrs. Cindy Carlson, retired secretary of Sub-District 5 of District 7 for the United Steelworkers and member of Local Union #3657, will receive the Service to Labor Award for assisting organized labor to improve the quality of life for workers in northwest Indiana.

As selected by the executive board, Mr. Rudy Sutton, president of R.V. Sutton, Inc., will be presented with this year's Union Label Award for his unselfish devotion to the labor movement through all the endeavors of his company.

Mr. Jeremy Rivas of Bricklayers Local #4 will accept the Community Service Award for exemplary service to the community and the enhancement of the quality of life for all.

Mr. Joseph Kasper of Boilermakers #374 will receive the George Meany Scout Award, an honor bestowed upon him by the Boy Scouts of America.

In memoriam, the late Jim Hornak, retiree of Carpenters Local # 1046, will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The exceptional service he so generously provided to the community deserves our admiration and respect. His dedication and commitment to his community is representative of the values we cherish in northwest Indiana.

For the 2007 Business Sector Awards, Mr. Dan Sajikowski, business unit leader at the BP Refinery in Whiting, Indiana, is this year's recipient of the President's Award. The years of hard work he has put forth are a true inspiration to all. Mr. Rex Mudge, vice president of human resources for Strack & Van Til, is this year's recipient of the Retail/Wholesale Sector Award, and Arcelor Mittal USA, will be recognized with the Building Trades Sector Award. Another of our distinguished State representatives, the Honorable Charlie Brown, will be honored with this year's Service Sector Award, and Mr. Mark Oprisko, councilman for the city of Portage, will be honored with the Industrial Sector Award. Finally, Mr. Bill Kelly, president of the East Chicago Federation of Teachers #511, will be recognized for his efforts with the Public Employees Sector Award.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These individuals are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary